

THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously Amended): A phytase-containing granulate prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer;
- (b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and
- (c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram.

Claim 19 (Previously Amended): A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

Claim 20 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise at least one divalent cation.

Claim 21 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

Claim 22 (Original): A granulate according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

Claim 23 (Previously Amended): A granulate according to claim 22 comprising a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy- propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose.

Claim 24 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or β -glucanase.

Claim 25 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the carrier comprises starch.

Claim 26 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

Claim 27 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.

Claim 28 (Original): A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.

Claims 29-30 (Cancelled)

Claim 31 (Previously Amended): A composition comprising:
a granulate according to claim 18.

Claim 32 (Original): A composition according to claim 31 which is an edible feed composition.

Claim 33 (Original): A composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed.

Claim 34 (Previously Amended): A composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

Claim 35 (Original): A composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, and is prepared by a process that comprises mixing a phytase-containing granulate with one or more animal feed substance(s) or ingredient(s).

Claims 36-38 (Cancelled)

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A granulate according to claim 22 comprising a derivatised cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose and an edible oil selected from the group consisting of soy oil and canola oil.

Claim 40. (Previously Amended): A granulate according to claim 22 comprising:(a) a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-methyl-cellulose; and (b) an edible oil selected from the group consisting of soy oil and canola oil.